

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

•retence of virtue, God so manifestly offended, for the intention if a creature neither can nor ought to be judged ; even if we :new of some fault, which we saw by its result, we ought not to udge the intention, but with great compassion bear it in the ight of God; we do the contrary when deceived by our own

•pinions. May God in His infinite mercy send us in sincerity long the way of truth, and give us true and most perfect light, hat we may never walk in darkness. I pray you and the bachelor, and the other servants of God, to pray the humble ^amb that He may make me go by His way. I say no more. ^s for your coming and staying, and Friar William's, may the vill of God be done. I hardly expected that he would come, ind also I did not expect him to answer with such disregard of icly obedience, nor with such simplicity. Commend me to him ind to all the others; I pray you and him to pardon me, if I lave been the cause of scandalizing you and giving you trouble ; confess that I am a scandal to all the world, being so ignorant ind full of defects as I am. Remain in the holy and sweet charity >fGod."¹

Catherine seems soon to have forgiven her English disciple, ffho, for the rest, was working efficaciously for Urban in his iolitude.² Those that came all stayed in the house that had ipparently been assigned to Catherine by the Pope in the Rione iella Colonna (not to be confused with the c< Contrada di Piazza Dolonna," where she afterwards took the house in which her :hapel is still shown), and lived there as her guests. The number Df persons who thus lived in her house was at the least twenty-four, sixteen men and eight women, and at times it increased to between thirty and forty. They lived entirely upon alms, partly begged in Rome itself, partly collected by her friends and disciples

¹ Casanatense MS. 292. The printed versions of this striking letter, 328 [130], omit a great part of this passage.

² He had a vision, while celebrating Mass, to the effect that Bartolommeo of Bari was truly Pope, and wrote to England upon the subject, with the result that his testimony was accepted by his countrymen as an argument for their adherence to the Roman claimant. Cf. the *Rationes dngttcorum*, in Raynaldus, vii. p. 338.